

MAY \* 1961

Circ.: m. 42,382

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Front Page

Edit Page

Other Page

Date: MAY 4 1961

BY FULBRIGHT:

## Buck-Passing Game Halted

AFTER two days of hearings on the U.S. role in the abortive Cuban invasion, Sen. J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called the operation a mistake for which there is a "collective responsibility."

By that, Senator Fulbright said he meant the responsibility of the White House, the Defense Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department.

Senator Fulbright's statement should have a calming effect on the rattled nerves of some high Government officials who have been doing an expert job of buck-passing during the past several days. It also will take a number of them off the hook.

The fireworks started when, after the invasion attempt collapsed, inept Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall tried to pin the blame on the administration headed by Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Republican spokesmen immediately challenged Udall's claim and it looked for a time as if the matter might become a political football.

Then President Kennedy announced that, as Chief Executive, he assumed full responsibility for U.S. involvement.

During the later buck-passing period, some of the State Department tried to blame the Central Intelligence Agency for the failure of the invasion, claiming the CIA had given inaccurate information. Director Allen Dulles denied the charge, and accusations flew back and forth between several agencies. But, after conducting hearings on the subject, Senator Fulbright is convinced that the whole thing was a mistake all around and that no one person or agency is solely responsible for the failure.

There isn't much doubt that the invasion collapsed because of several factors, including improper timing. If it had succeeded, everyone would have been glad to accept the credit. But no one ever wants to take the blame for failure.

The thing Washington needs to worry about now is what may happen in the future. The U.S. has not intervened directly in Cuba, and may never do so, unless our Naval base at Guantanamo is attacked. But the State Department admits that Cuba has become an all-out Russian satellite and that Castro himself is "more Communist" than most Iron Curtain rulers. The existence of a Communist state at our very doors, from which a missile attack easily could be launched against the U.S. mainland, is not a situation which our leaders can view with equanimity.